

Message Text

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17

ACTION PM-03

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NSAE-00 RSC-01 EB-04 OES-03 AID-05 IGA-01 /034 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 6684

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: SEISMIC RESEARCH OBSERVATORIES PROGRAM (SROP):
REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION ON ADDITIONAL USE OF
KABUL SRO

FOR NEA/PAB AND AID/NESA/NE

REF: A) KABUL 6363 (NOTAL); B) STATE 199165 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: GOA PLANS SEND KABUL UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR TO
UNESCO-SPONSORED SEISMICITY MEETING IN TEHRAN OCTOBER 27-31.
DELEGATE HAS REQUESTED USG VIEWS RE ADDITIONAL USE OF KABUL
SEISMOLOGICAL CENTER IN UNESCO-SPONSORED DATA COLLECTION EFFORT.
EMBASSY RECOMMENDS FAVORABLE REACTION FOR REASONS SET FORTH
BELOW. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF LEARNED FROM CHIEF, NEBRASKA UNIVERSITY PARTY AT
KABUL UNIVERSITY (PARA 2, REFTEL A) THAT KABUL UNIVERSITY
PLANS SEND DR. ZERJAN BAHAI OF ENGINEERING FACULTY TO UNESCO-
SPONSORED MEETING ON SEISMICITY AND SEISMO-TECTONICS OF SOUTH
AND CENTRAL ASIA TO BE HELD IN TEHRAN OCTOBER 27-31. OTHER
PARTICIPATING NATIONS WILL BE TURKEY, IRAN, USSR, INDIA,
PAKISTAN, NEPAL, BURMA AND PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA.
MEETING WILL DISCUSS IMPROVEMENT OF DATA COLLECTION, IMPROVE-
MENT OF SYSTEMS OF SEISMIC OBSERVATION AND APPLICATIONS TO
STRUCTURAL DESIGN AND DISASTER RELIEF.

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3. DR. BABA ANTICIPATES HE WILL BE REQUESTED TO INFORMALLY INDICATE NATURE OF POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION OF KABUL SEISMOLOGICAL CENTER IN DATA COLLECTION. HE HAS REQUESTED USG VIEWS RE INVOLVEMENT SINCE SRO EQUIPMENT OWNED BY USG.

4. USAID, THROUGH CHIEF NEBRASKA UNIVERSITY PARTY, HAS TOLD KABUL UNIVERSITY ENGINEERING FACULTY THERE NOT RPT NOT SUFFICIENT TIME TO CLEAR WITH USG AGENCIES. K.U. FACULTY ALSO INFORMED THAT REVIEW OF PROAG 306-12-660-093 OF JUNE 30, 1966 REVEALS NO RPT NO IMPEDIMENTS TO SHARING SRO DATA WITH ANY GOVERNMENT OR INSTITUTION. FURTHERMORE, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE WITHIN PROAG TO INSTALL ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT AND REPORT DATA TO OTHERS PROVIDED THERE NO RPT NO INTERFERENCE WITH PRESENT FUNCTIONING OF SRO. EMBASSY AND USAID EXPECT THAT CONDITIONS FOR OPERATION AS DETAILED IN ARTICLE E OF PROAG WILL BE MET. FINALLY, K.U. FACULTY TOLD THAT EMBASSY AND USAID ASSUME THAT ANY FUNDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED TO SUPPORT NEW ACTIVITIES WILL COME FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN USG.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: THIS SEEMS BE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY OVERCOME AFGHAN GOVERNMENT RESERVATIONS TOWARD SRO BY DEMONSTRATING ITS BENEFITS TO AFGHANISTAN. ALSO BABA, WHO RECENTLY ACQUIRED DOCTORATE IN CIVIL ENGINEERING FROM NORTH CAROLINA UNIVERSITY, IS VERY FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO US AND TO SRO IN AFGHANISTAN. FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO THIS QUERY MIGHT HELP PAVE WAY FOR EXPANDED SRO PROJECT (REFTELS).

6. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT/AID/W REQUESTED GIVE EXPEDITIOUS REPLY TO GOA REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION AS SET FORTH ABOVE. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS FAVORABLE REACTION TO GOA REQUEST. ELIOT

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